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City Agencies Partner with Veterans Village of San Diego to Move Forward with Ambitious Redevelopment Plan

More than \$8.5 million in funding approved for the benefit of homeless veterans

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego City Council, sitting as both the Redevelopment Agency and the Housing Authority, this week approved more than \$8.5 million in funding for the multi-phased redevelopment and expansion of facilities for the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD), one of the nation's leading rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans.

The Veterans Village of San Diego, a \$27 million redevelopment project, is being redeveloped by the Veterans Village of San Diego and the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego. The rehabilitation center provides a place for homeless veterans to live and seek treatment, support, employment training, and counseling. The redeveloped Veterans Village will ultimately replace the original aging 87-bed facility on Pacific Highway with a larger state-of-the-art facility allowing VVSD to assist a larger number of homeless veterans and provide a total of 364 beds. The project is being developed in three phases and will enhance the ability of VVSD to provide much-needed services to San Diego's homeless veterans.

The latest funding approval and redevelopment deal allows VVSD facilities to undergo the second phase of expansion and prepare for the third phase. Phase two of the redevelopment project will add 112 transitional housing beds as well as an employment center, medical facility, central courtyard and admissions building. It is expected to break ground this spring.

Phase one, which was completed last July, is a \$7.4 million expansion that includes a two-story counseling center, a 112-bed residential early treatment facility and a dining hall with a state-of-the-art kitchen. The City and its Redevelopment Agency and Housing Commission invested nearly \$2 million in phase one.

"We have so much appreciation for the Mayor, the City Council, City agencies and the North Bay Project Area Committee for their generous support in making the next phase possible," said Al Pavich, VVSD president and CEO. "They have planned thoughtfully for the future by helping us to ultimately add three times our number of current beds, which allows us to help more homeless veterans and prepares us for veterans who've served in Iraq and Afghanistan who may become homeless."

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The Redevelopment Agency has authorized an additional investment of up to \$4.35 million. Of that total, \$4.2 million is from bond proceeds and tax increment from the North Bay Redevelopment Project Area, and \$150,000 is from tax increment from the Naval Training Center Redevelopment Project Area. The San Diego Housing Commission is also investing \$4.24 million into the second phase of redevelopment project.

Additionally, the County of San Diego invested \$200,000 into the second phase and the Veterans Administration provided a grant of \$320,000 to round out the \$9.1 million cost of construction for phase two and land acquisition for phase three, which is currently in the planning stage.

“The Veterans Village of San Diego is arguably one of our best assets in the fight against homelessness in the local community,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “I am very proud of what this project has achieved, and I look forward to seeing VVSD reach its full potential by capitalizing on these new resources.”

The Veterans Village of San Diego has been extending assistance to needy and homeless veterans of all wars and eras and to their families for the last 25 years. VVSD opened its first rehabilitation facility more than a decade ago, and its success has been recognized by the Veterans Administration as the highest in the nation for such a facility.

“I consider the Veterans Village of San Diego to be a critical asset in my district and we’re very fortunate to have the tool of redevelopment to help carry out this project,” said Councilmember Kevin Faulconer, whose Second District includes the North Bay Redevelopment Project Area.

The 1,360-acre North Bay Redevelopment Project Area is centered roughly at the junction of interstates 5 and 8. The Project Area is largely urbanized and offers a variety of outstanding development opportunities for new single- and multi-family residential, high technology, office/R&D, retail, hotel, light industry and mixed-use development.

For more information about the **Veterans Village of San Diego**, call **(619) 393-2034** or visit **www.vvsd.net**. For more information on the North Bay Redevelopment Project Area, contact the **City Redevelopment Division** at **(619) 533-4233**. Extensive information on redevelopment activities in the City of San Diego is also available online at **www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency**.

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The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency eliminates blight from designated areas, as well as achieves the goals of development, reconstruction and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial, and retail districts. Redevelopment is one of the most effective ways to breathe new life into deteriorated areas plagued by social, physical, environmental or economic conditions that act as a barrier to new investment by private enterprise. **The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency consists of three divisions:** the City Redevelopment Division (which provides overall agency management and is housed in the City of San Diego’s City Planning and Community Investment Department), the Centre City Development Corporation and the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation.

The San Diego Housing Commission helps more than 75,000 individuals with affordable housing each year through award-winning programs that benefit the city’s economy and help revitalize neighborhoods. These include: rental assistance, public housing, family self-sufficiency programs, assistance for first-time homebuyers, property rehabilitation programs, special needs housing support, and affordable housing development financing in collaboration with community partners.